

Wash. 18th July 1861

Mr B. F. Gravely Leathemwood
Henry Co. Va

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 5th inst. was duly recd. & we delayed replying to it with the hope of being able to say something encouraging to you as to the prospects of trade &c, but we cannot. ~~Similar~~ ^{Similar} speeches & other unfortunate indications cause us to be much less hopeful than we were a week or two since. We note what you say in regard to selling you Govt. & State Bonds & we are glad by it. We have, we think, thus far escaped better than some of our friends, but nevertheless, have suffered enough to make us very cautious. It is now very hard to get strictly responsible men to buy Govt. You will see by the Memo. that we have done very little for you. We have given Mr Willis Gravely a draft on you at ten days from 18th July 1861 for twenty seven hundred & fifty six ⁵⁰ dollars say \$2756.65. The amt. that we accommodated you by accepting at 4 mos. from 20th Oct. last, will be due on 23rd inst. for \$4000.00. We will pay it & it will save you the exchange by paying to Mr Willis Gravely the amt. of \$2756.65, ^{in War funds} instead of remitting to us in State funds.

Yours Very Truly John P. Pleasants & Sons